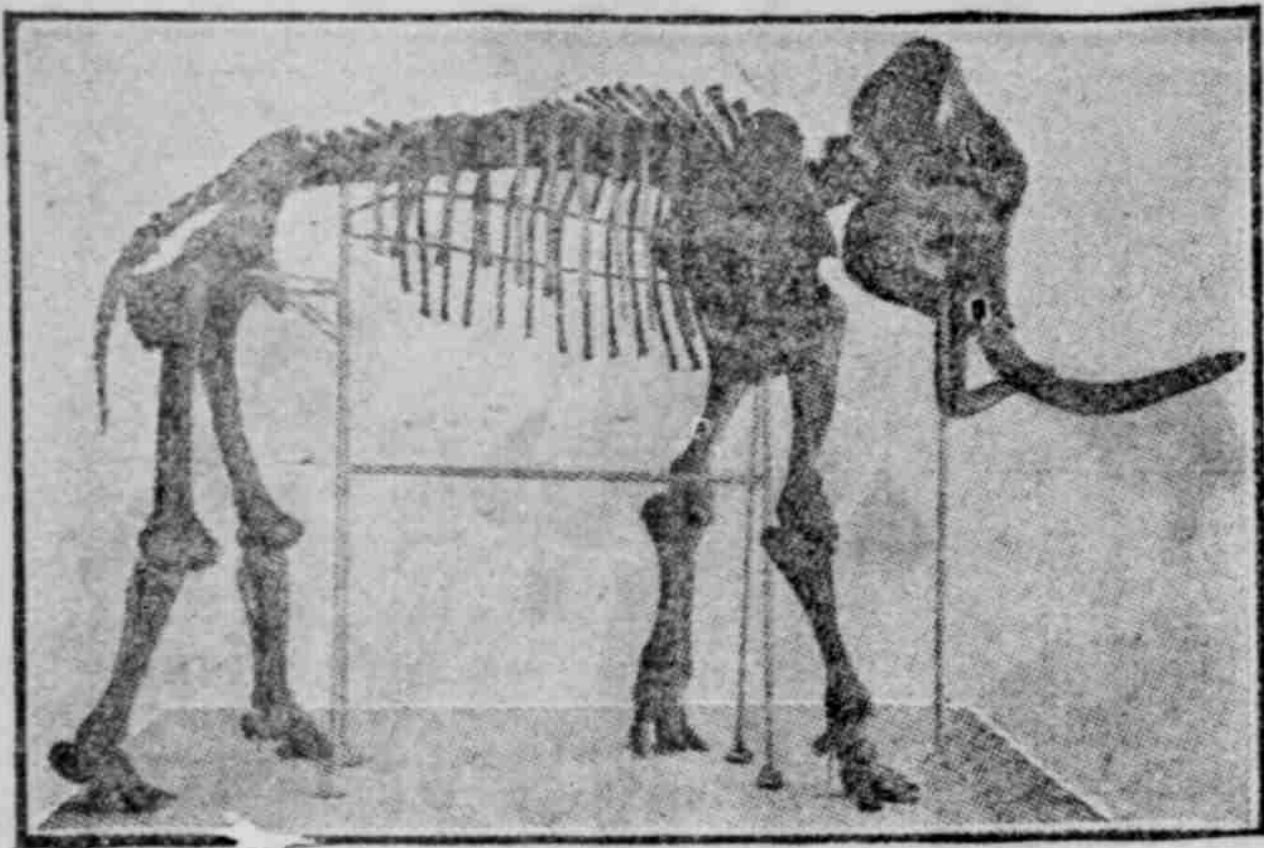


Page of Stories of Things Strange and Curious



MAMMOTH UNEARTHED IN SIBERIA

In the accompanying picture is shown a portion of a gigantic mammoth which was recently discovered in Siberia. When the news spread that a monstrous though imperfect skeleton had been unearthed by some laborers who were working under the supervision of Russian scientists steps were at once taken in St. Petersburg to have the notable relic carefully preserved and at the

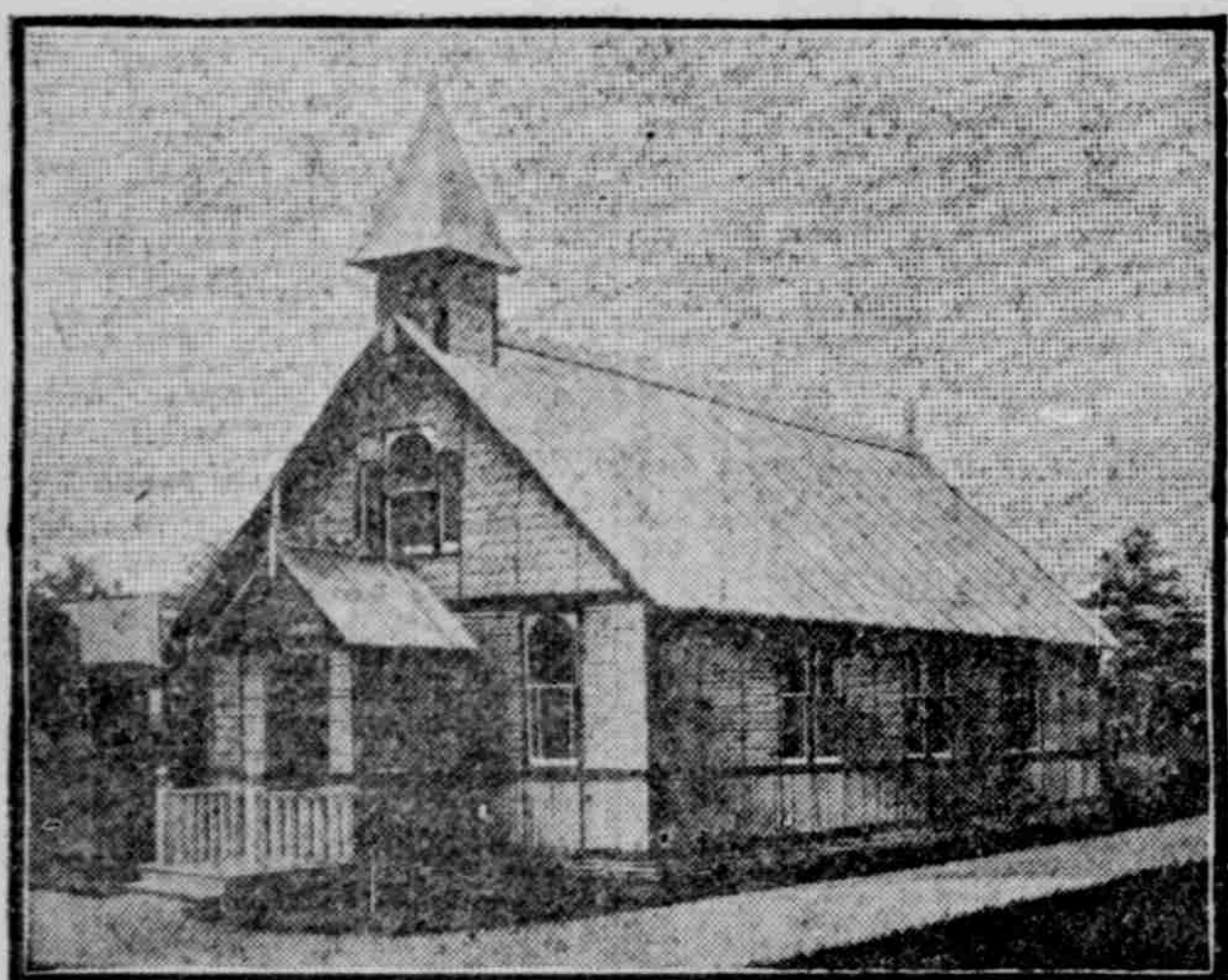
same time an indefatigable search for the missing portions was started. These labors have so far produced good results. A few minor parts which have probably decayed, are still missing, but the huge skeleton is practically complete, and consequently the experts have found little difficulty in reconstructing it and giving it the appearance which the mammoth bore in life.



CARING FOR A BABY LEOPARD

In India the young of wild animals are frequently used as household pets. A baby leopard, for instance, is said to be much more interesting than an ordinary cat, without being any more ferocious. A pet

leopard is shown posing for its picture in the accompanying photograph. It did not behave very well and its owner was obliged to hold it up before the camera much against its will.



A PORTABLE CHURCH.

A decided novelty in church construction has been erected recently near New York. The structure is complete in every way, and yet may be packed up and removed to another field and erected again for about

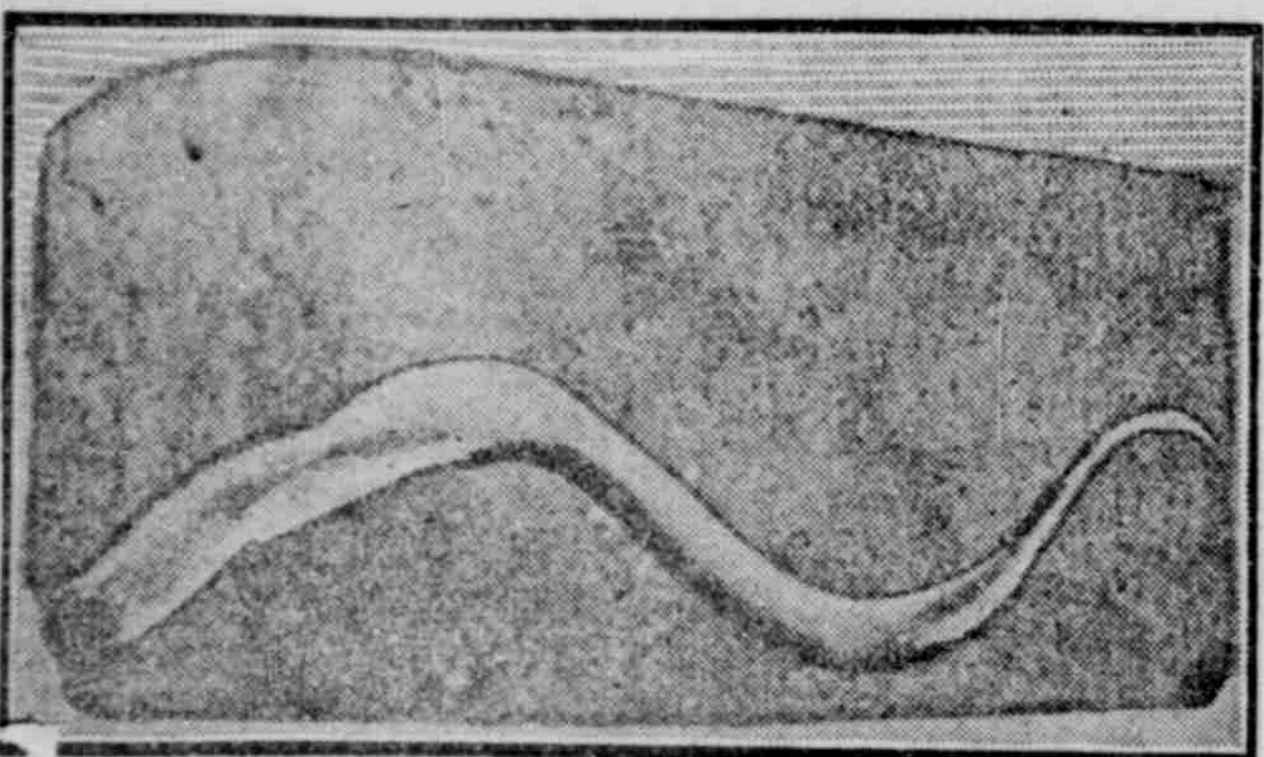
ing of the old type is avoided, and the original investment saved. The edifice has all the beauty, symmetry and apparent stability of the ordinary style church. It measures fifty-five feet in length and twenty-five in width.



JAPANESE TATTOOER AT WORK.

Just outside the gate of the Brooklyn navy yard hangs a cloth sign, painted in big letters, "Japanese Tattooer." The tattooer is at work on the broad back of a sailor, putting on the finishing touches of a wonderful dragon that sprawls over the pink flesh from neck to waist, from shoulder to shoulder. It is done in all the glaring colors in which the Orientals delight, with eyes of fire, scales of blue and yellow and green, fierce red claws and stripes of black along the body.

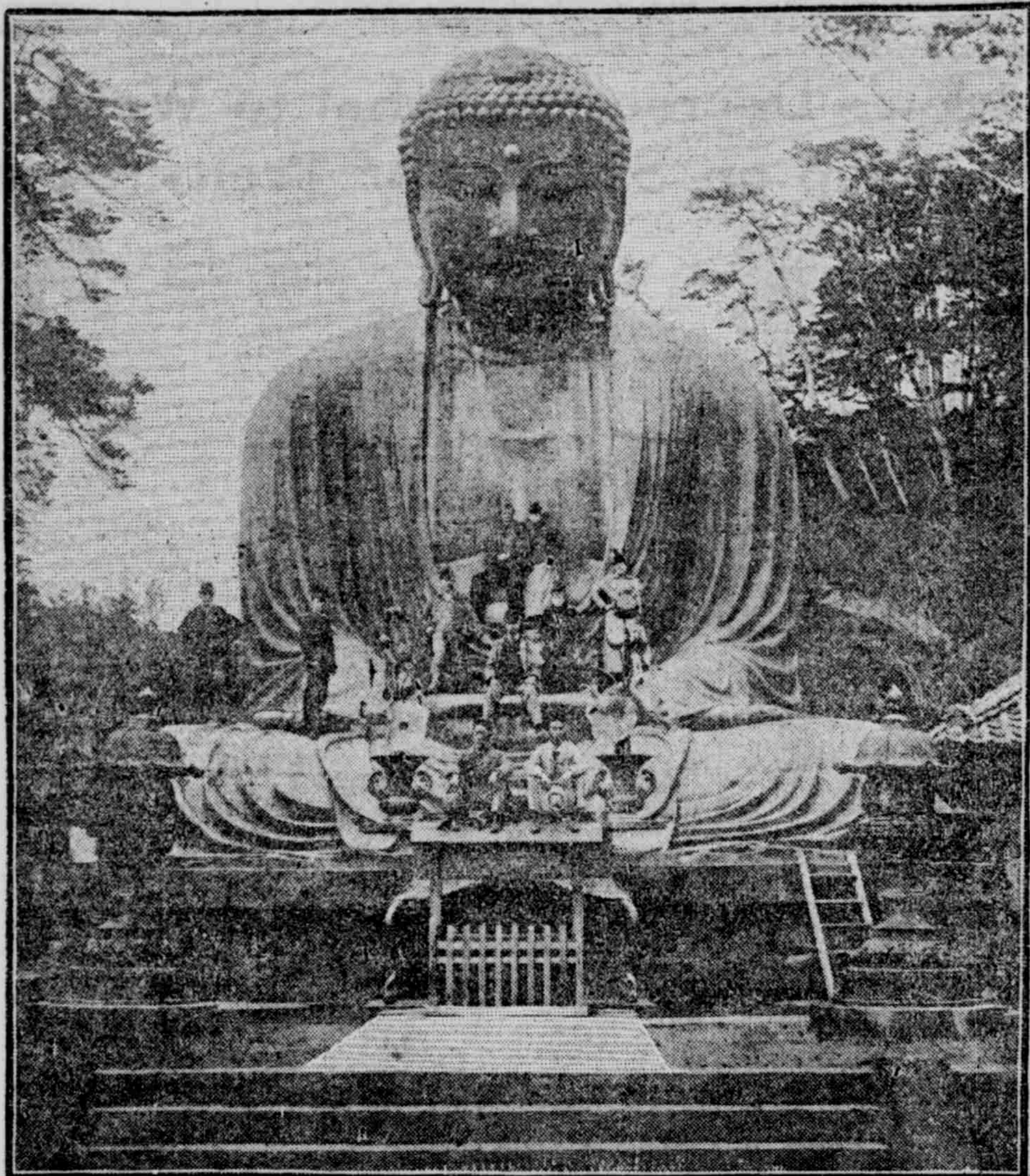
With a steady hand the tattooer works the ivory-handled needle back and forth, using the thumb and forefinger of his left hand for a brace. The needle is like a brush of very fine points, and this is dipped into the paint and forced very gently into the skin, leaving the paint under the cuticle. Twenty hours is the time required to etch a dragon that covers a man's back, and it is done at a time—an hour's work each day. For this a man pays not less than \$5. For a more elaborately wrought dragon the charge is \$6, and there are designs for which the price asked is \$10 and \$20.



SNAKE IN A BRICK

The accompanying photograph shows the result of a common green field snake's pressure on the paving face of a green, or unburned brick, and its consequent incision. The snake was lifted up together with a yard and a half of clay, by a steam shovel, during the laying of a brick plant at Medford, Mass. From the car it was dumped into a brick press and subjected to a pressure of 5,000 pounds to the

square inch, and coming out of the bottom in one of six bricks in a mold. An exposure to the sun and wind for three days took place before the pressed snake was sent into a kiln and baked at a temperature of 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. The brick containing the snake's impression was rescued from a loaded car by the writer. The delicate scales do not show well in the photograph. The effect, however, is as if it were cut by the finest lapidist, in



GREATEST OF STONE CARVINGS

This statue, as the photograph clearly indicates, is one of the greatest carvings in the world. It is one of the most noted figures of Buddha and is known as the Stone Buddha. The top of the head is

nearly seventy feet above the stone foundation, but, as will be noted, the proportions are excellent, considering the colossal dimensions of the figure.

It forms one of a group carved of sandstone which exists in great bluffs near the Yang-Ho river, in north China, and, according to scientists, is nearly fifteen hundred years old. It is supposed to have been carved during the reign of the famous Emperor Wen Cheng-ti. It is among the wonders of Asia, but owing to the isolated locality where it is situated is visited by but few tourists.

Notes of Things and Happenings Unusual

Italy makes \$8,000,000 a year out of foreign visitors. There are four millionaires in Great Britain to one in France. Constables in London receive \$25 a year as a clothing allowance.

Nine new parks or open spaces were added to London's lungs in 1901. The world is said to contain 99,000 locomotives, of which 56,500 are in Europe.

During the last century war caused the death of more than thirty million civilized men. Out of 156,000 houses or flats in Glasgow 36,000 have one room only and 70,000 only two rooms.

The United States received from Germany during the nineteenth century 5,079,362 immigrants. The ordinary howitzer or siege gun weighs 2,500 pounds, and is six feet, ten inches long.

A tract of Eastern Australia which thirty years ago was a sandy desert now supports over a million sheep. The United States has 75,000 postoffices; Germany is next with 46,023, and Great Britain third with 22,400.

The number of ants in a nest varies from 12,293 to 93,694. These figures are from a recent count of five nests. The average farm laborer's family in England lives on \$18 a year; the average mechanic's family spends \$30.

The deepest well in the world is situated in the village of Sprenberg, about twenty miles from Berlin. It has a depth of 4,194 feet. The posthouse of Anconmarca, in the Andes of Peru, is 16,000 feet above the sea, and probably the highest inhabited spot on earth.

Parisians smoke cigarettes made of the leaves of the coffee plant. Those who have tried them prefer them to tobacco cigarettes. Some Spanish fishermen at Aguilas found a corpulent fish in their catch. Cutting it open they found twenty odd letters it had swallowed.

The longest telephone wire span in the world is 3,300 feet from pole to pole, spanning the Susquehanna river at Lancaster, Pa. Within a year more than 2,000 skilled workmen have left the French silk factories of Roubaix and Turcoing for the United States.

Salmon traps are forbidden by law in Canada. Therefore, salmon costs fifteen cents apiece in Canada, but only three cents over the border. Calhoun, Orkney and Shetland are Scottish countries in which wages are lowest. A plowman there still considers himself well paid at \$3.36 a week.

St. Michael's Church at Coventry is said to have the widest nave of any English church. It is 125 feet wide. That of York is 104½ feet in width. There are 7,672,848 houses and shops in

Great Britain. Of these only 1,151,998 are private dwelling houses of over \$100 yearly rental. The coronation robe presented to the Empress of Russia was of fur. It weighed only sixteen ounces, yet was worth \$6,000, or \$385 per ounce.

A new rifle with which the United States army is to be shortly equipped is said to have an effective range of five miles, and to be the lightest rifle ever devised.

The largest pair of shoes ever manufactured for actual wear in America were made by a firm of shoemakers at Hookland, Mass. The size is labeled "seventeen," and they are nearly sixteen inches long.

An English inventor some time ago believed he had solved the problem of aerial navigation by combining the wings of a flying machine with a regular bicycle mechanism. He proved conclusively, on paper, that with this construction it would be a simple matter for a person to fly as readily as he could wheel along a country road.

Among the hundreds of pictures of the great Napoleon it is often remarked that scarcely any two are alike. Probably the most authentic reproduction of his features which has been preserved is the death mask, which was made at St. Helena and is now preserved in the British Museum.

The cast was made shortly after death, and is considered a faithful and exact copy of his features. Diamond thieves are said to be the cleverest in the world. In mining diamonds it is necessary to exercise every precaution, but even then the loss by theft is considerable. Many stones, for instance, have been swallowed by the natives and others employed in handling them. A negro in the Kimberley mines a daily stole and swallowed ten valuable diamonds. The stones were valued even in the rough state at \$6,000.

Probably the shabbiest as well as the most interesting bag in New York city is that which has been used for the last twenty years to carry the money from the post-office to the United States Bank. In its best days it was a very ordinary affair of canvas and leather, but now, in its old age, it seems hardly worth a glance to one not familiar with its story. It is calculated that each year this bag has held no less than \$2,500,000, and that during the twenty years of its existence it has held within its dingy cover a sum of \$40,000,000. Small as it is, it has often taxed the strength of two men to lift it with its precious burden.

Emperor William likes a cigar, but, according to recent reports from Berlin, he has now learned that no cigar is comparable to good tobacco smoked in a good pipe. In his smoking room there are several pipes, but some he has never used, and there is only one which he constantly uses. A beauty it is, having been fashioned by an artist from a design furnished by the Kaiser himself. The bowl, which is larger than usual, is of meerschaum; the stem, which is rather long and delicate, is of Turkish wood; a finely carved cluster of leaves ornaments the bowl and a large silver W, on which a silver bird is

perched, decorates the stem. In this pipe the Emperor smokes Havana tobacco which is specially prepared for him.

There are many large specimens of the brown cedar, *Juniperus monosperma*, in the Garden of the Gods, Pike's Peak, Colorado. Professor Bessey, of the University of Nebraska, during a recent visit to that place, made an effort to ascertain the age of some of the magnificent specimens. He was fortunate enough to find the stump of a recently cut tree on which it was easy to distinguish the annual growth of rings. These were counted for a section of the trunk, care being taken to select a portion in which the rings were of average thickness, and on this basis the number of the whole stump was calculated. In this way it was found that this particular tree was between 800 and 1,000 years old. In other words, the tree was a seedling some time between the years 800 and 1000 A. D.

Here are some figures which are likely to surprise those who have never tasted horse flesh. According to the Paris Board of Health, in 1898, 21,429 horses, mules and donkeys were consumed in that city; in 1897, 22,029; in 1896, 22,512; in 1895, 22,807; in 1894, 22,484; in 1893, 22,083; and in 1892, 22,224. Of this last number 31,790 were horses, 485 were donkeys and 49 were mules.

From the marked increase in consumption during the last three years it must not be assumed that the people of Paris are becoming ever more addicted to the use of horse flesh as food, since there is abundant proof that the only reason why more horse flesh was consumed in 1892 than in any preceding year is because certain butchers have discovered that such flesh, when mixed with pork, makes very palatable sausages, and as horse flesh is cheaper than pork they naturally use as much of the former as they safely can.

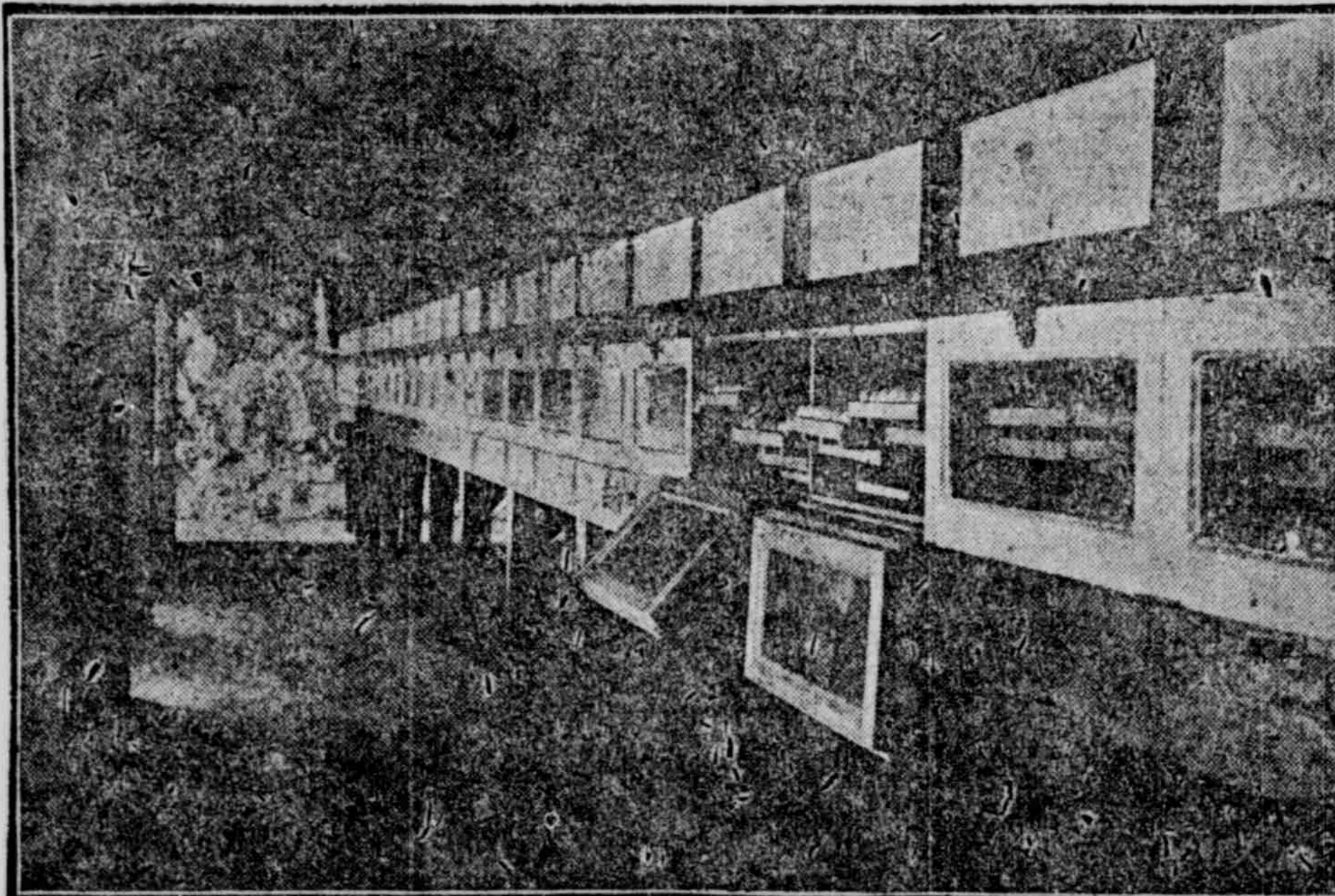
In 1849, according to the German newspapers, Frederick William, who was then King of Prussia, consulted a fortune teller, and here is the extraordinary prediction which she made to him:

"We are now in the year 1849," she said, "and if, beginning at the right, you place under each other in a vertical column the numerals which make up the number, 1849, you will find the year in which your kingdom will become a great empire. That year will be 1871. Now, perform the same operation with 1871 and you will arrive at 1913, which is the date of the first Emperor's death. Finally treat 1913 in the same manner and you will obtain 1913, this being the year in which the empire will be overthrown and a new one proclaimed."

Here is the way in which she obtained the three notable years:

1849	1871	1888
1	1	8
8	8	8
4	4	8
9	1	8
1871	1888	1913

Her predictions as regards two of the years have come true and superstitious persons are now wondering if 1913 will really prove quite as fatal a year for the German Empire as she has prophesied.

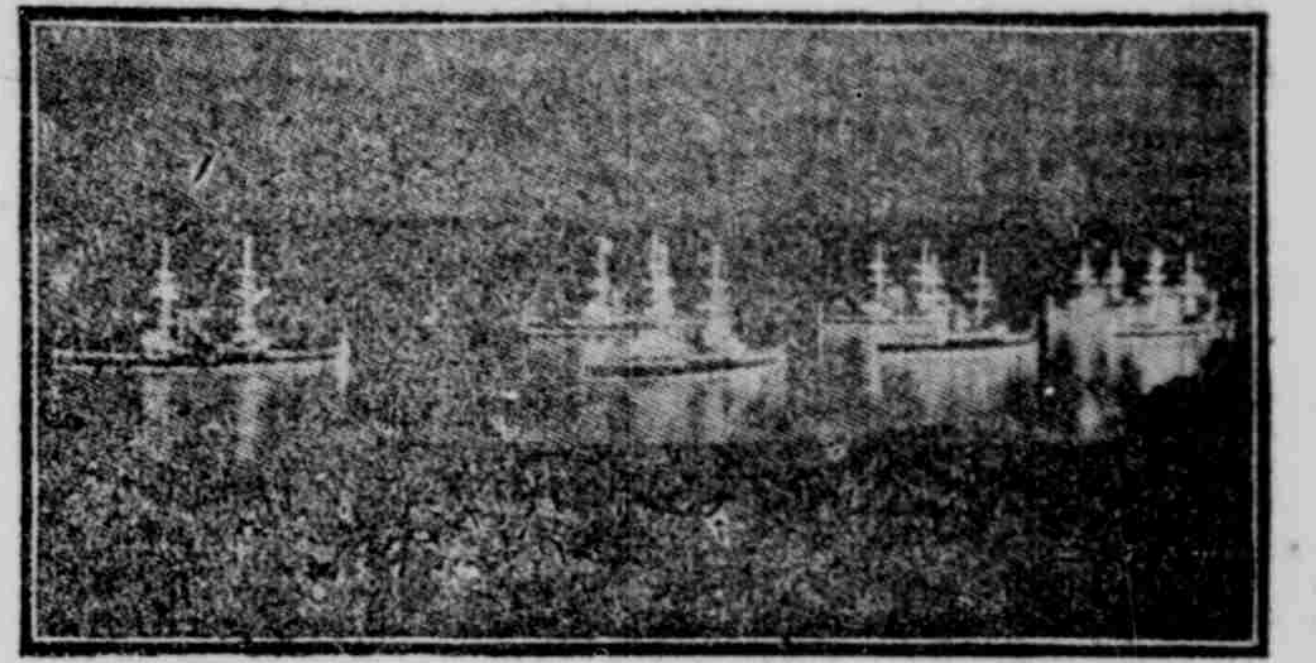


BIGGEST INCUBATOR IN THE WORLD

The largest incubator ever made is shown in the illustration. It is fifty-one feet long and a little over four feet wide. It has fifty compartments and in each of these there are two trays, or one hundred trays all told. Each tray holds at least seventy-five eggs, making the total incubating capacity of this single machine 7,000 eggs.

It takes twenty-one days to hatch eggs, in an incubator. Estimating that the hatching season opens March 1 and continues to Aug. 1, this machine would handle 50,000 eggs, and if 50 per cent. of them hatched it would mean 25,000 young stock. However, the percentage of eggs hatched

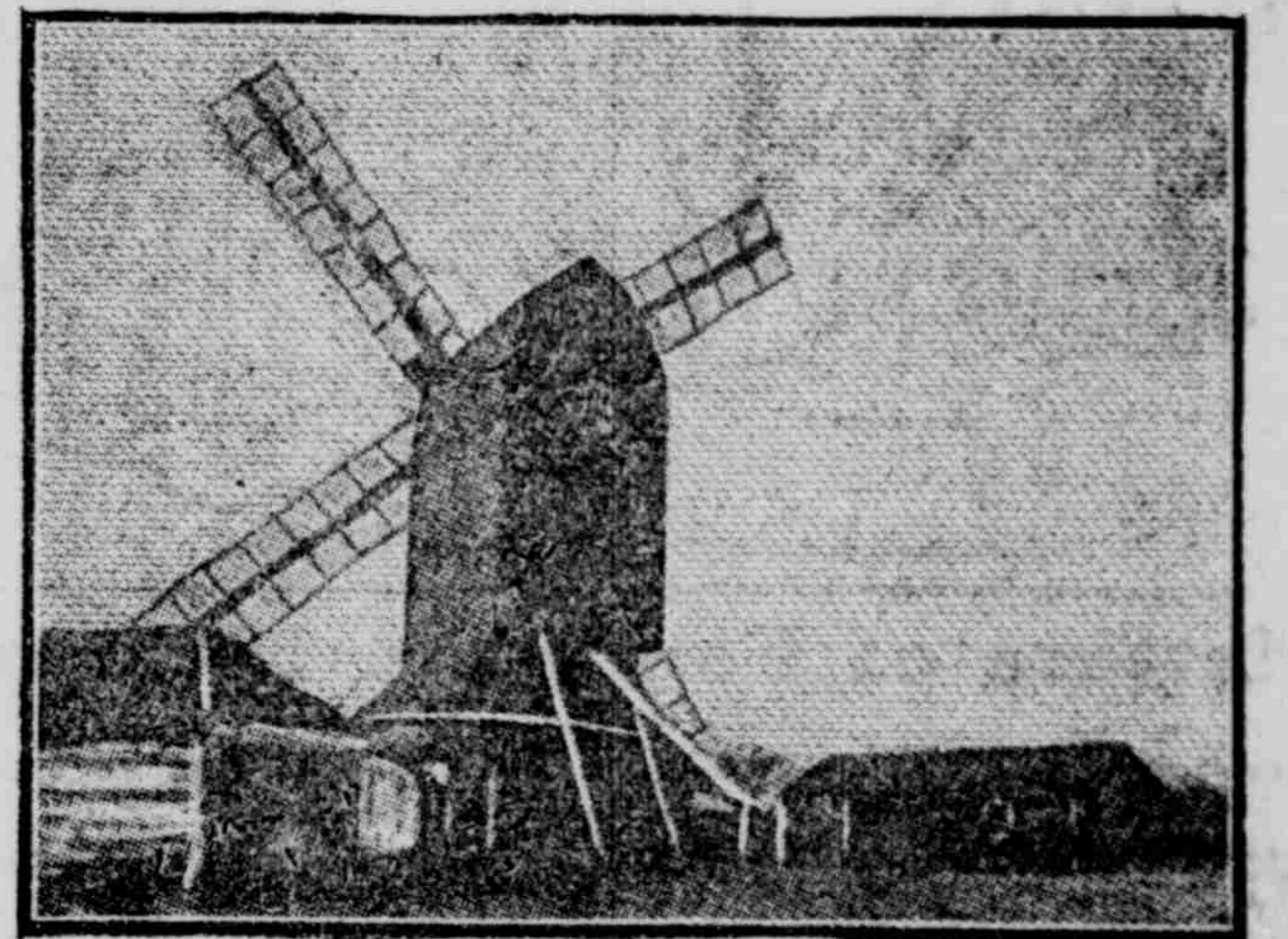
will no doubt run much higher than this, and run up to 75 per cent., which would mean 37,500 young stock. A hen sets on from twelve to fifteen eggs, so that giving each hen the latter number of eggs would mean that to equal the hatching capacity of this one incubator one would have to set no less than 2,500 hens.



NIGHT NAVAL PICTURE

One of the most expert amateur photographers in Great Britain is Lord Algernon Percy, and his friends and admirers claim that he has seldom, if ever, taken a more interesting picture than the one here reproduced.

Lord Algernon's opportunity came when the British fleet was stationed at Malta. In honor of the occasion appropriate festivities were held, and at night, when the sky was ablaze with fireworks and the stately men-of-war were brilliantly illuminated, he went with his camera to a place which commanded an excellent view of the water, and he did not leave it until he had taken some admirable pictures of the beautiful scene.



WINDMILL CHURCH.

Picturesquely situated on a high hill near London is an ancient mill, several centuries old, which has long served as a church. The interior of the mill has been converted into a perfect little chapel. The walls are artistically decorated with figures of saints and

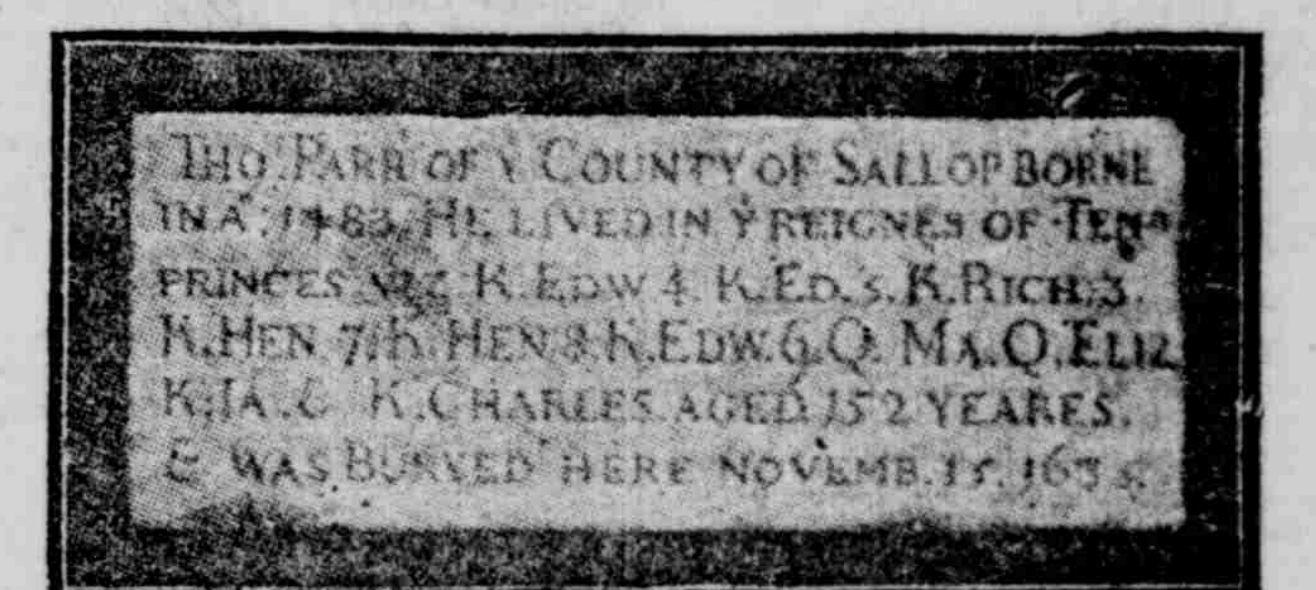
angels, the altars furnished with candles and vases. A full choral service, with surpliced choir, is held here every Sunday. The mill, which now bears the name of Chapel of St. Cross, is capable of seating between twenty and thirty persons.



CARRYING GAME COCKS

In Mexico, Central America, the Philippines and all countries once under the domination of Spain, cock fighting is an almost universal sport. When it is necessary to convey a game bird to the scene of a fight

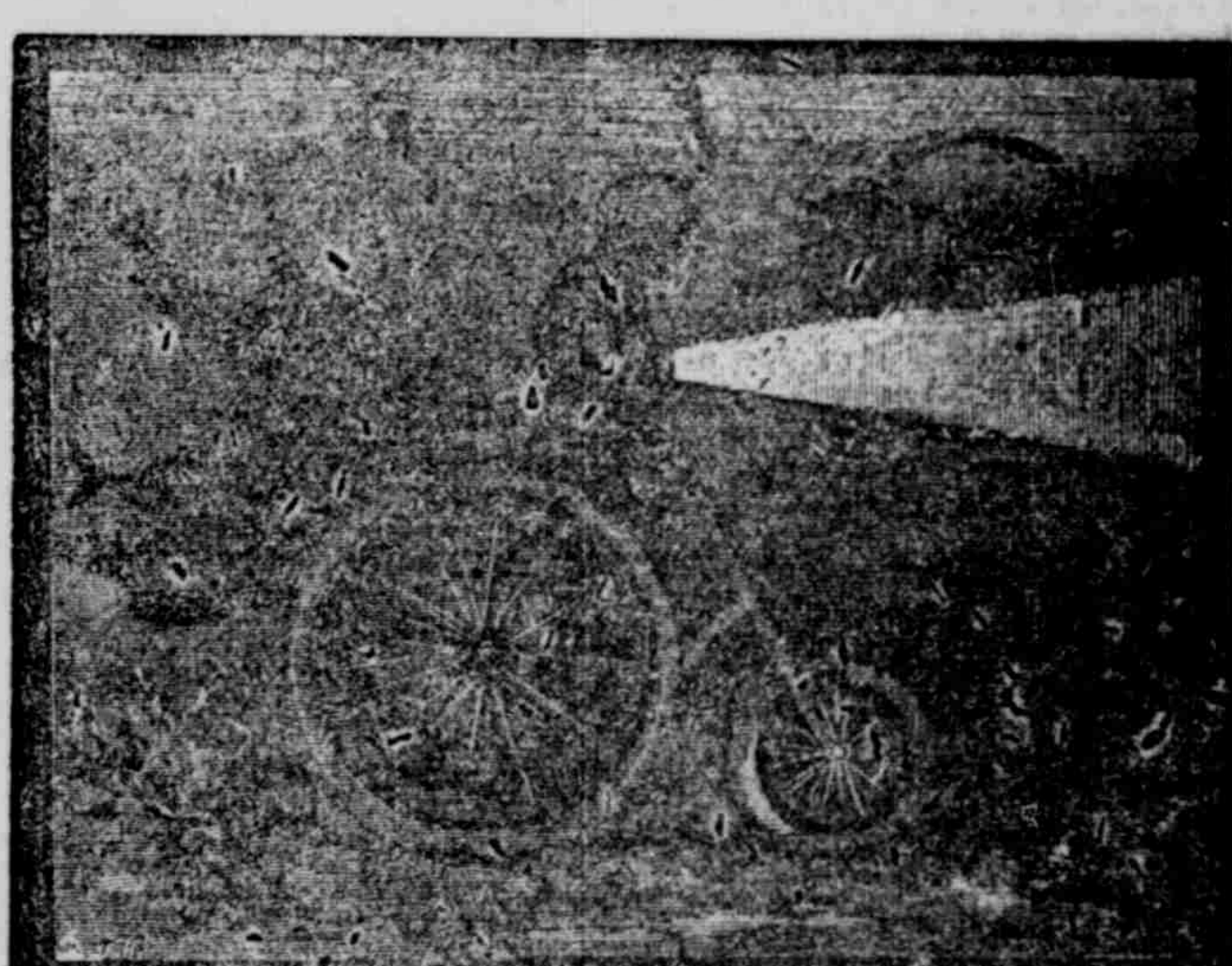
it is placed head foremost in a tapering basket, from the wide end of which its tail feathers project. Six or a dozen or more of these baskets are fastened to a frame work of wood, and the whole affair is easily carried on the back of a peon.



"OLD PARR'S" TOMBSTONE.

In the accompanying picture is shown the tombstone of the famous centenarian, Thomas, commonly known as "Old Parr," concerning whom so many curious stories are told. He is said to have been born in the parish of Abertbury, near Shrewsbury, in the year 1525, and to have died at Lord Arundel's house, off the Strand, in London, in 1635, at the age of 112. He was buried in the

south transept of Westminster Abbey, where the stone reproduced here fitly commemorates him. According to one legend he ran a foot-race long after he had passed his hundredth year with all the agility of a young man, and according to another he threshed corn for several hours daily in his one hundred and thirtieth year.



TAKING A SPIN ON A SUBMARINE BIKE

Submarine bicycling will never, it is safe to say, become a popular form of recreation, but the wheel has nevertheless been used below water with success. An experiment of this kind was made off the coast of England, near Plymouth. The

cyclist was a diver fully equipped, while he employed a tricycle with heavy, flat-tired wheels. On a smooth surface it was found that the wheel could be propelled easily, if somewhat slowly, and with much less effort than is required to carry a heavy suit of armor the same distance.